14

SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

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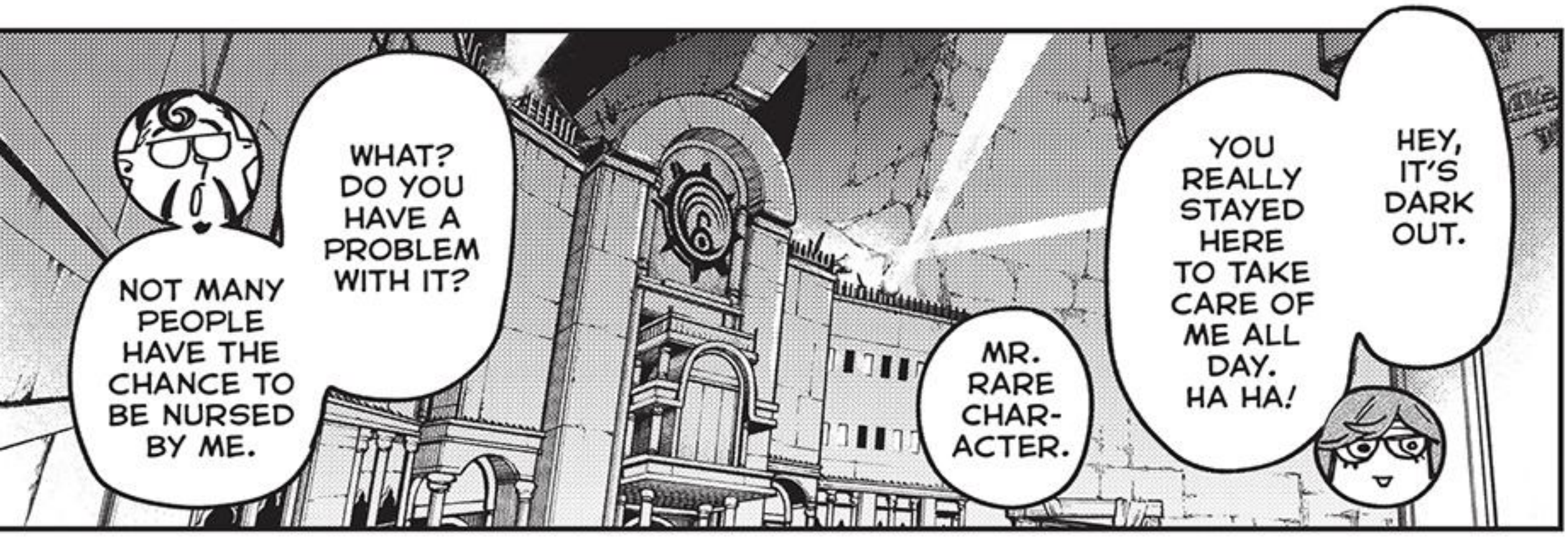
CHAPTER 113: A VAGUE IDENTITY

THE CHOKER MAKER LISTENS TO OUR VOICES.

SO TELL NO ONE. NOT EVEN YOUR FELLOW CLEANERS.

ENJIN IS ONE THING...

BUT WILL RUDO BE ABLE TO KEEP HIS LIPS PROPERLY ZIPPED?


NOT MANY PEOPLE HAVE THE CHANCE TO BE NURSED BY ME.
WHAT? DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT?
MR. RARE CHAR-ACTER.
YOU REALLY STAYED HERE TO TAKE CARE OF ME ALL DAY. HA HA!
HEY, IT'S DARK OUT.

KA-CHAK
カリャ
THEN GET READY TO LEAVE.
DON'T WORRY—I'LL EXCUSE MYSELF WHEN EISHIA ARRIVES AND I'VE WITNESSED YOUR FULL RECOVERY!

EISHIA JUST GOT HERE.

I-I'M SO SORRY I TOOK SO LONG, RIYO...!!

FIRST, LET ME EXAMINE YOU...!!

I FEEL BETTER ALREADY...

A FAMILIAR FACE IN AN UNFAMILIAR PLACE...

FRACTURED SPINE AND RIBS...

INTERNAL ORGAN DAMAGE... IT'S JUST LIKE THEY TOLD ME.

YOU'RE LUCKY THE SOUTH BRANCH GOT TO YOU AND TOOK CARE OF YOU SO QUICKLY...

I WOULD BE HOLDING YOUR LIFE IN MY HANDS...

NO, STOP... YOU CAN'T TALK LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF THE PATIENT...

THERE AREN'T A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE THIS TIME...IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY...

OH MAN, SHE'S DOING IT AGAIN.

IF...IF...YOU WERE IN ANY WORSE CONDITION...

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ME.

EVEN IF YOU CAN'T HEAL ME, I PROBABLY WON'T DIE.

DON'T STRESS OUT ABOUT IT.

...OKAY...

IF YOU'VE SUCCEEDED BEFORE, YOU CAN SUCCEED AGAIN.

BE-LIEVE IN YOUR-SELF.

IS MILDRETTA REALLY ONLY 24 YEARS OLD?

...ALL RIGHT.

GNN

I WILL NOW START THE TREATMENT...!!

IT USES ELECTRICITY TO ADMINISTER MEDICAL TREATMENT.

SHOONK

EISHIA'S VITAL INSTRUMENT IS THAT CORD.

VITAL INSTRU-MENT...

BUT THIS IS NO ORDINARY ELECTRO-THERAPY.

THAT'S WHAT MAKES GIVERS SO INTER-ESTING.

THEIR EXPERIENCE AND THOUGHT PROCESSES INFORM THEIR INSTRUMENT'S ABILITIES.

TYPE: HEAL.

YES... WITH EISHIA'S PURE HEART AND INHERENT KINDNESS...

...THIS IS A POWER ONLY SHE CAN WIELD.

パチッ

BZZZT

THROUGH THAT CORD,

THEN EISHIA HERSELF...

...ELECTRICITY GOES INTO THE PATIENT, RECHARGING THEM AND HEALING THEM!

ZAP
ZAP
CLICK
CLICK
BZZZZT
BZZT
ZAP

BOOM

...

...I...

I DID IT...!

I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE AMAZING, EISHIA!

...I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED, DOES HQ NOT HAVE ANYONE TO PLAY THE STRAIGHT MAN?

FWOOOOFFF

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UH-HUH! UH-HUH! YOU'RE PERFECTLY HEALED! I DID IT! I DID IT! WHAT A RELIEF!!

LOOK AT THIS VOLUME! THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS!!

YOU ARE A REAL ARTISTE, AREN'T YOU?

A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION WOULD REQUIRE MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE AND ADVANCED VOLTAGE REGULATION TECHNIQUES...

WELL, MY GRANDMA BEAT ALL THE KNOWLEDGE INTO ME...

SO EISHIA, YOU CONVERT ELECTRICITY INTO LIFE FORCE AND SEND IT TO THE INJURED PARTS OF THE BODY.

AND WHEN IT HAS REACHED EVERY ORGAN AND THE PATIENT IS COMPLETELY HEALED, THEY END UP LIKE THAT?

THE FIRST MEDICAL PROCEDURE I EVER SAW...

...WAS WHEN GRANDMA STARTED A HEART WITH A CARDIAC DEFIBRILLATOR.

I FOUND THIS CORD IN THE HOUSE, AND I USED IT TO COPY HER ALL THE TIME.

I WAS SO MOVED BY THE IDEA THAT ELECTRICITY COULD SAVE PEOPLE...

I UNDER-ESTIMATED THE TRUE POWER OF ELECTRIC-ITY...

THAT'S RIGHT...

FROM THEN ON, ELECTRICITY WAS A SOURCE OF TRAUMA FOR ME, AND IT TOOK SOME TIME TO CONQUER THAT FEAR...

IRONICALLY, THAT HELPED ME DEVELOP A SPECIAL ATTACHMENT TO THIS CORD AND MADE ME A GIVER...

BASICALLY, IF I MAKE THE TINIEST MISTAKE REGULATING THE VOLTAGE, I RISK BURNING MY PATIENT TO A CRISP...

WHAT I DO IS TERRI-FYING...

AWWW, THERE'S THAT NEGATIVE THINKING AGAIN...

OKAY!

ALL SET!

HNNNNGH

YOUR HAIR WILL GO BACK TO NORMAL AFTER A WASH.

THANKS, EISHIA!

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL. THIS TAKES A LOAD OFF MY SHOULDERS, TOO.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN, MR. KURO.

I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING YOU WANT TO KNOW.

OH YES, AS AN APOLOGY, YOU MAY ASK ME A QUESTION.

AM I IMAGINING IT, OR ARE YOU AWFULLY SOFT ON THE CLEANERS?

DON'T YOU THINK THE VALUE OF YOUR PRODUCT WILL GO DOWN IF YOU KEEP HANDING IT OUT LIKE THAT?

I KNOW YOU FEEL GUILTY, BUT YOU'RE AN INFORMATION BROKER, AREN'T YOU?

...DON'T WORRY. I JUST HAVE A SPECIAL ATTACHMENT TO THE CLEANERS, THAT'S ALL.

"WHY DON'T YOU PUT YOUR FINGERS IN YOUR GLOVES?"

WELL, WHATEVER. I'LL JUST CONSIDER MYSELF LUCKY!

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU ARE LUCKY!

OKAY, HERE GOES.

YEAH, IT'S BEEN BUGGING ME.

...WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW?

THAT'S...

... WHAT ?

...

WHOA!

WHAT A WASTED QUESTION !!!!

DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR MOTHER?

AWW... BUT IT'S BUGGING ME.

YOU SHOULD WANT MORE FOR YOURSELF!!!

DON'T WASTE YOUR CHANCE FOR VALUABLE INFORMATION ON SOMETHING SO STUPID!!

THAT'S ALL IT IS!!!

WHEN YOU'RE WEARING GLOVES, SOMETIMES YOU WANNA PULL JUST THE FINGERS OFF, DON'T YOU?!!

IT WASN'T AS SIGNIFICANT AS I THOUGHT.

FLUMP

THANKS.

AH HA HA! YOU REALLY DO KNOW EVERYTHING.

IF YOU'RE THAT DESPERATE TO TELL PEOPLE STUFF, FORGET ABOUT ME.

TELL RUDO WHAT THAT TRASH BEAST AT TORI REALLY IS.

OR MAYBE TELL HIM YOUR REAL IDENTITY.

BUT NOBODY ASKED YOU.

GOT IT? THEN GET LOST.

MY REAL IDENTITY, EH...?

RATTLE

I CAN SEE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HEALED YET, RIYO.

PTAM

...

...MY "ORIGINAL FORM."

I'VE LONG FORGOTTEN...

I'VE PLAYED TOO MANY ROLES.

YOU CAN REMIND ME WHO I REALLY AM...

RUDO... IF ANYONE CAN DO IT...

GACHIAKUTA

SHE'S ASLEEP. SHE MUST HAVE BEEN TIRED.

CHAPTER 114: FLAILIN'

P

MTA

ARE YOU GOING TO TRY TO FIND MORE OF THE WATCHMAN SERIES SO YOU CAN GET ACROSS THE BORDER?

SO?

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU, RUDO?

WHEW...

OR ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK FOR THE KIDNAPPER WHO LOCKED UP AMO...?

I WONDER WHY WHOEVER DID IT, DID IT...

...THE KID-NAP-PER...

CLACK

CLACK

BUT THEY DON'T KNOW WHO AMO IS.

AMO?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THE RAIDERS HAD AMO'S SHOES...

THE SHOES WEREN'T WHAT THEY WANTED.

BUT...

DID THE KIDNAPPER REALLY *JUST* WANT TO MAKE AMO SUFFER...?

BUT BASED ON WHAT FU TOLD US JABBER SAID...

AND I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN TRUST IT...

"I HATE TAKING STUFF WHEN THERE'S NOBODY TO TAKE IT FROM."

...HE STOLE THE SHOES WITHOUT RUNNING INTO ANYBODY.

THE KIDNAPPER TOOK HER AND LEFT THE SHOES.

ゴオオオオオ

WHOOOOOOSH

GETTING PAYBACK CAN BE AN END UNTO ITSELF.

THAT'S JUST A NORMAL PART OF LIFE IN THIS WORLD.

I CAN IMAGINE SHE'S MADE A LOT OF ENEMIES.

T-

TMP

SHE SAID IT HERSELF. SHE'S HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE.

!

CLICK

SO AMO MADE SOMEONE MAD AT HER...AND THAT'S THE ONLY REASON...?

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

DING

IF YOU INSIST ON FINDING THE KIDNAPPER, I WON'T STOP YOU.

BUT YOU HAVE THINGS TO DO, DON'T YOU?

THE SPHERE AND THE GROUND ARE PART OF THE SAME WORLD. THEY'RE CONNECTED.

THE HINT YOU NEED TO GET YOU WHAT YOU WANT...

...MIGHT BE LURKING CLOSER THAN YOU REALIZE.

I'M ROOTING FOR YOU, RUDO.

YOU-

OH, RUDO, MY BOY!

C'MERE.

C'MERE.

THANKS, TAMSY!!

UH... I...

FLUSTER

FLUSTER

FLUSTER

FOR EVERY-THING, ESPE-CIALLY WITH AMO!

HA HA!

DON'T THANK ME. I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.

I'LL KEEP YOU POSTED!

I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF ANYTHING...

GOOD NIGHT.

FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL
HE'S A CRAPTAS-TICALLY GOOD GUY!!
COME ON!!! I CAN TELL TAMSY EVERYTHING, CAN'T I?!!
GESTURE CONVO
FLAIL
FLAIL
NO, YOU CAN'T! THE CHOKER MAKER MIGHT HEAR YOU!
...
FLAIL
WELL, TOUGH! IF YOU WANT TO FIND THE WATCHMAN SERIES, YOU HAVE TO!
FLAIL
BUT I'M REALLY NOT COMFORTABLE LYING!!

THEN I JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT OFF!

GESTURE CONVO

TWAZG

...IT'S THROUGH THESE, RIGHT?

IF THE CHOKER MAKER IS LISTENING...

GESTURE CONVO

TAKING IT OFF RIGHT AFTER MEETING WITH THE INFO BROKER SCREAMS SUSPICIOUS.

FORGET IT.

...

GESTURE CONVO

FLAIL

HRRGH...!

SO YOU'RE TELLING ME TO LIE TO EVERYONE FOREVER?!

BUT NOT YET! DON'T RUSH ANY-THING!!

IT MIGHT BE OKAY TO LET RIYO, ZANKA, AND GRIS KNOW.

EVERYONE BUT THE THREE OF US WHO KNOW ABOUT THE CHOKER MAKER.

YEAH, I ASKED HIM WHERE TO FIND THE CHOKER MAKER.

BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW.

WHAT ?!

BUT YOU PAID THE PRICE, DIDN'T YOU?! YOU WORKED HARD FOR THAT INTEL!

BUT DID I EVER TELL TAMSY THAT THE CHOKER MAKER MIGHT HAVE PART OF THE WATCHMAN SERIES...?

...COME TO THINK OF IT, I HEARD THE NAME "CHOKER MAKER" FROM KURO...

YOU GOT TO ASK THE INFORMATION BROKER ABOUT THE WATCHMAN SERIES, DIDN'T YOU?

WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?

BUT WHERE WOULD HE BE GOING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?

OH... MAYBE SOMEBODY ELSE TOLD HIM...

...“I’M WORK-ING.”

“LEAVE ME ALONE OR FACE MY WRATH”...

...

Sff

CLANG

CLANG

?!

CLANG

CLANG

RATTLE

カチ

WHAT
!!!!

THAT'S AUGUST ?!

THAT'S ANOTHER WILD CREATION YOU'VE GOT ON THERE.

WHAT ?!

AUGUST.

SFFス

AND I BROUGHT YOU A SNACK.

I KNOW YOU'RE GETTING READY FOR YOU-KNOW-WHAT.

I'M WORKING! SAYS SO ON THE SIGN!!

NOW LOOK HERE, PEOPLE!!

COME ON, I'M SORRY, AREN'T I?

YOU ARE ASKING FOR TROUBLE! I MEAN IT!!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS ALL YEAR! IT'S FINALLY COMING!!

ENJIN! WHAT'S THE DOLL FES...?

THNX.

THIS ONE'S GOING IN THE REJECT PILE, THOUGH!

THAT'S RIGHT!! I'M MAKING MY COSTUME FOR THE DOLL FESTIVAL!!!

HEY, AUGUST, RUDO SAYS SINCE HE HASN'T BEEN ON THE GROUND VERY LONG, HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE DOLL FESTIVAL.

WHAT?!

I MUST UN-UNEN-LIGHTEN YOU!!!

FOR REALLY REAL REAL?! YOUR LIFE IS 100% WASTED!!!

FWIP

THE DOLL FESTIVAL!!!

IT'S AN ULTRA MEGA SIZED UNVEILING PARTY!!

IS THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR, PUT ON BY GIVERS WITH DOLLS AND OTHER TOYS AS VITAL INSTRUMENTS!

EXACT-LY!

AT THIS FESTIVAL, YOU CAN SEE IT!

THE DREAM BECOMES REALITY!!

EVERY KID DREAMS OF IT ONCE IN THEIR LIFE.

THEY'RE ALL, "I WISH MY TOY WERE ALIVE."

AND EVEN BETTER! THIS YEAR, IT'S ON OCTOBER 31!! HALLOWEEN, BABY!!!

AND EVERY YEAR, THE PARTICIPATING GIVERS AND THE GUESTS AAAALL DRESS UP IN COSTUME!

HOW CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO GIVE LESS THAN 130 PERCENT!!!

SUCH A THRILLING EVENT!!!

ENJIN CAME TO AUGUST TO GIVE ME AN EXCUSE TO GO TO THE DOLL FESTIVAL...!!

NOW I GET IT!

NOT THAT I REMEMBER IT!!

BTW, I'VE BEEN A REGULAR ATTENDEE SINCE I WAS ZERO YEARS OLD!!

GO THERE AND LOOK FOR THE WHITE CROW.

IN TWO WEEKS, SOUTH WARD WILL BE HOLDING ITS DOLL FESTIVAL.

IF THAT'S WHERE I'LL FIND THE CLUE KURO GAVE ME, THEN...!!

POR SUPUESTO WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!!!

COME ALONG! THE MORE THE MERRIER!!!

YES, THERE IT IS!

AUGUST! I WANT TO GO TO THE DOLL FESTIVAL, TOO!

BUT APPARENTLY THE TWINS FROM THE SOUTH BRANCH WILL BE PARTICIPATING THIS YEAR.

ALSO, YOU HAVEN'T MET THEM YET...

FLAIL

FLAIL

GESTURE CONVO

WE CAN'T TELL THEM WHAT WE'RE UP TO, BUT WE CAN COUNT ON THEM IF THERE'S AN EMERGENCY.

FLAIL

FLAIL

SO GUYS.

SO LET'S TRY AND END THINGS PEACEFULLY, AND THEN MAYBE WE CAN JUST ENJOY THE DOLL...

WE'RE NOT GOING THERE TO FIGHT.

AND WHO ELSE WANTS TO GO! TAKE ROLL!!

OH! THIS MEANS I'LL HAVE TO MAKE YOU A COSTUME, TOO!!!

IF WE GO IN CLEANERS UNIFORMS, WE'LL STAND OUT LIKE SORE THUMBS.

BUT IF WE'RE IN DISGUISE, IT WILL BE EASIER TO APPROACH OUR TARGET.

FLAIL

FLAIL

DIS-GUISE ...!!

GESTURE CONVO

OH, WHAT A RELIEF!!

I WASN'T GOING CRAZY...!!

UH.

NO ...

WHAT'S ALL THE ARM FLAILIN' ABOUT?

IS THIS A NEW TREND?

CHAPTER 115: THE CLEANERS

TAP

TAP

THIS JOB IS A PRETTY BIG ONE.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

THAT WOULD HELP, YES.

THE THREE MEMBERS OF CHILD ARE FREE RIGHT NOW. WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO ASK THEM TO JOIN YOU?

NYA-RRGH !!!

I'D SAY YOUR VOLUME IS POWERFUL ENOUGH.

THEY MAY BE EXCEPTIONAL BUT I CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF BURDENING CHILDREN WITH THIS!!

IF ONLY I HAD MORE POWER!!!

KZH ZH

HELLO, BRO? SORRY FOR THE SHORT NOTICE, BUT CAN I ASK YOU TO GO ON A JOB?

AS AN ADULT!! AND AS A MAN!! I...I—!!!

TMP

IT'S EARLY. COULD YOU TURN IT DOWN A BIT?

OH, YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO LEAVE YOUR ROOM.

!

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE.

IT TOOK YOU FOUR DAYS THIS TIME.

THE PILE OF PAPERWORK I NEED YOU TO APPROVE IS ABOUT TO FALL OVER.

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

SKFF SKFF SKFF

スカスカ

SOMETIMES I JUST NEED SOME ALONE TIME TO PROCESS MY THOUGHTS.

SFF

!

DOES THIS MEAN AMO HAS THEM NOW?

IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE TOOK THE SHOES OUT OF MY VAULT.

YES... HE DID. HE PUT IN A FORMAL REQUEST, SAYING IT WOULD PROBABLY HELP AMO FEEL BETTER.

I DON'T APPRECIATE YOUR USE OF THE WORD "TOOK."

I GOT SEMIU'S PERMIS-SION.

SO I AUTHO-RIZED IT.

AND YOU TOLD ME I COULD LET SOMEONE HAVE THE SHOES AS LONG AS THEY WERE IN THE CLEANERS.

...

I'LL NEED TO SPEAK WITH HER PERSONALLY.

...

IF AMO'S FEELING BETTER, THEN IT'S ALL GOOD.

OH.

HALLELA

BUT FIRST.

WOULD YOU ASK RUDO TO SEE ME IN MY ROOM?

...
IT'S GOOD STUFF.
TRY IT. JUST A LITTLE SIP.
ズゥズゥ
SIP

Y-YEAH ...
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME DRINKING COFFEE?

TOO BITTER? SORRY!

HA, HA, HA!

BLEGH ...

YOU CAN TRY IT WITH MILK AND SUGAR.

NOD

NOD

SIP

NOW THEN.

WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME ABOUT WHAT YOU GAINED ON YOUR TRIP TO THE SOUTH WARD?

...BUT HOW MUCH CAN I TELL HIM?

DON'T EVEN TELL YOUR CLEANER FRIENDS. ♡

UM... WELL.

GULP

I GOT THAT INFORMATION FROM KURO...

I'M SURE YOU GAINED THINGS OTHER THAN WHAT THE INFORMATION BROKER TOLD YOU.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU LEARNED.

YOU SEE...

SHRRR

WHAT I WANT TO KNOW...

...AFTER THE EXPERIENCE YOU HAD.

...IS WHAT YOU THINK, AND WHAT YOU WANT TO DO NEXT...

WHAT I WANT TO DO NEXT...

...WHAT ...I THINK...

...

SO LET'S TALK IT OUT.

SOMETIMES SAYING THINGS OUT LOUD CAN HELP YOU SORT OUT YOUR OBJECTIVES.

I GOT EVERYONE IN TROUBLE TRYING TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.

I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE NO ONE GETS HURT.

SO NEXT...

I'M PATHETIC. THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

I KEEP CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR PEOPLE, EVEN HERE ON THE GROUND.

チラ…
GLANCE

コクリ
NOD

SO, I HATE IT, BUT...

...NEXT TIME, I WANT TO BE LIKE ZODYL.

AND KEEP A COOL HEAD LIKE HIM.

...I GOT TO ASK THE INFORMATION BROKER TWO QUESTIONS.

ズズ
SIP SIP

H-HE DIDN'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO ONE OF THEM...

SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO BE RELENTLESSLY GREEDY...

KA-FWAM

...JUST LIKE THE RAIDERS.

THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

WITH THE INFORMATION I GOT FROM KURO...

...I MANAGED TO SAVE AMO.

THANK YOU...! RUDO...

I NEEDED HELP TO DO IT, BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME... I FELT LIKE I HAD ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING.

GNN

AND I'M SO GLAD AMO'S ALIVE! THAT'S WHAT I THINK!

I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH AMO!!

WHOOSH

I... I WANT...

...

AT THE TORI NO MAN'S LAND, I FOUND MY ANCESTOR'S LAST WORDS.

...THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED...

...!

...

HE WAS KILLED BECAUSE OF THE WATCHMAN SERIES...

MY DAD... REGTO...

AND HE HAD THESE GLOVES... TO GIVE TO ME...

HE HAD A BOOK THAT WAS LIKE THESE...

BECAUSE HE HAD PART OF IT.

IF I'M GONNA FIND THE CREEP WHO DID THAT TO HIM...

SO...

I...!!

THIS WORLD... IS A STEAMING PILE OF CRAP.

REGTO KNEW.

AND ABOUT SUREBREC ...!!

ABOUT THE WATCHMAN SERIES...

WHOOSH

I HAVE TO KNOW!!

AND WHAT HAPPENED TO MY ANCESTOR!

I HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT HE KNEW!

I HAVE TO KNOW ABOUT THE SPHERE AND THE GROUND... ABOUT THIS WORLD...!!!

PEOPLE CAN'T IGNORE THOSE WHO ARE PUTTING UP A FIGHT.

...IS INCAPABLE OF IGNORING THEM.

EVEN "THE TRUTH OF THIS WORLD"...

I PROMISE THEY WILL TAKE SHAPE AND REVEAL THEMSELVES TO YOU.

BUT IF YOU KEEP FIGHTING,

MAYBE THEY'RE WARPED AND YOU CAN'T SEE THEIR TRUE FORM YET.

YOU HOLD PIECES OF IN-FORMA-TION IN YOUR HANDS.

IF WE CAN HELP THAT HAPPEN,

THEN YOU HAVE THE CLEANERS' FULL AND COMPLETE SUPPORT.

!

I MEAN, I HELLA APPRECIATE IT, BUT YOUR JOB IS TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH BEASTS, RIGHT?

UH, NO, NO... FULL AND COM-PLETE ...?

CLICK

THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. I CAN'T JUST LET YOU VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES FOR ME... I'LL GET YOU IN TROUBLE AGAIN...

!

HE KNOWS SOME-ONE IS LISTEN-ING...

JUST A... WHY DID YOU TAKE MY CHOKER OFF...?

ONLY A SMALL HANDFUL OF PEOPLE KNOW WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU, EVEN AMONG THE CLEANERS.

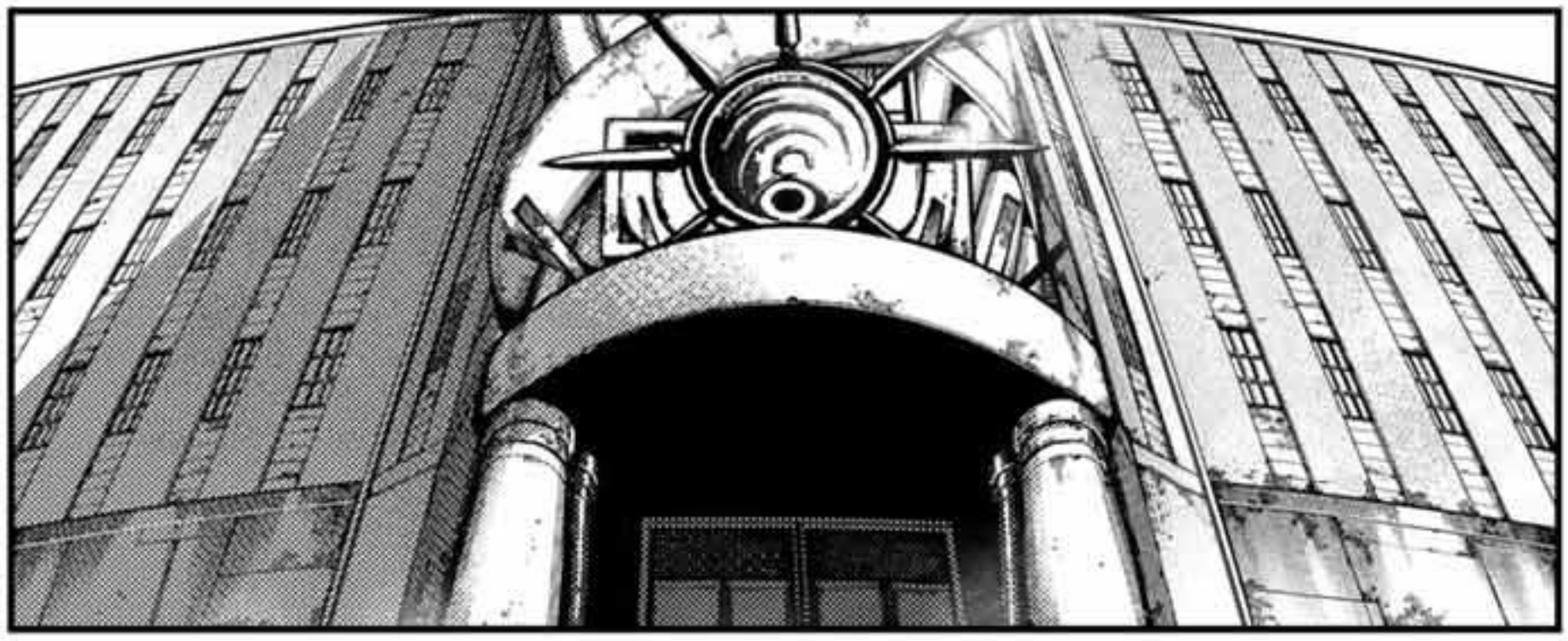
RUDO... THIS ORGANIZATION YOU'VE FOUND YOURSELF IN...

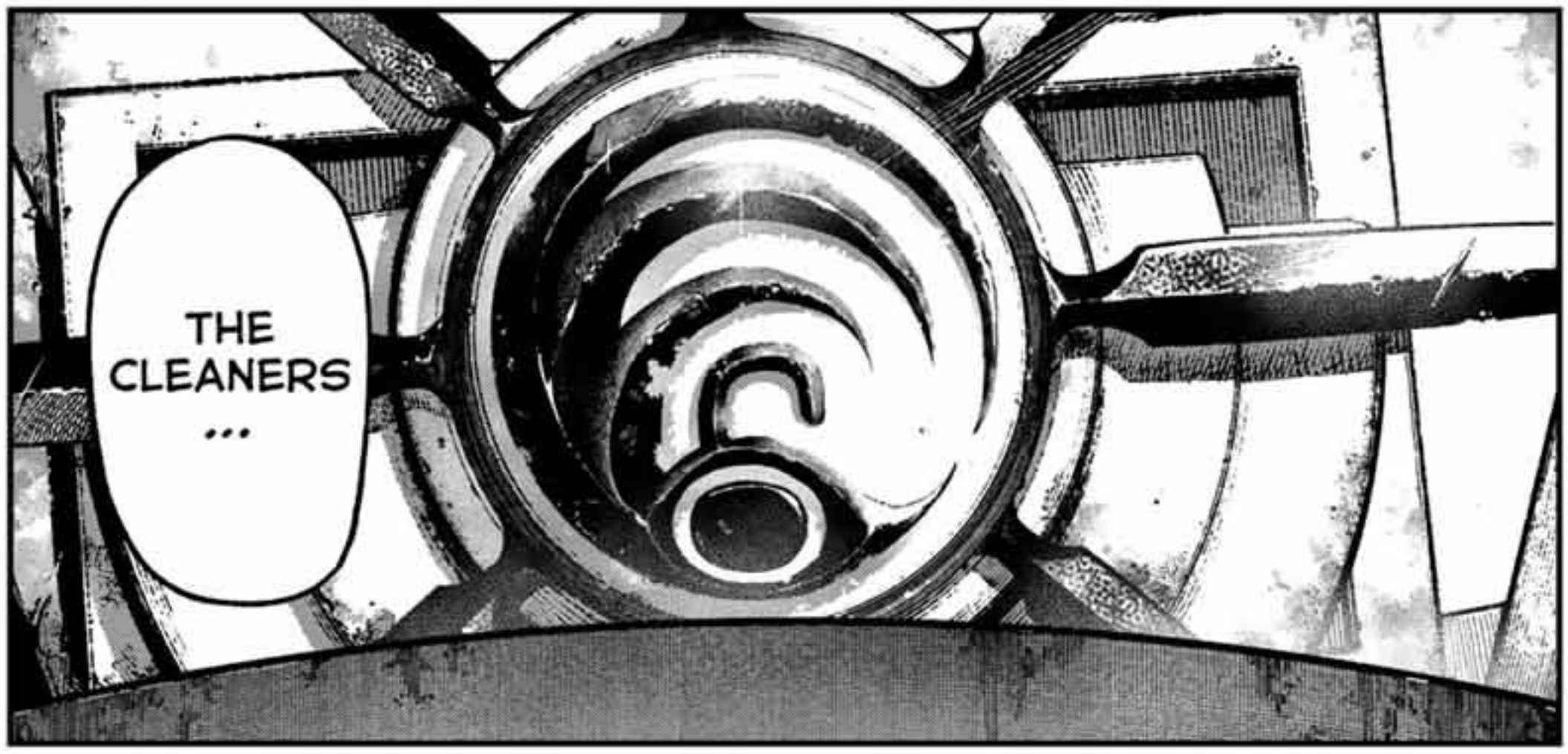
NONE OF OUR BUSI-NESS?

ACTUAL-LY, IT'S EXACTLY OUR BUSI-NESS.

THE CLEAN-ERS...

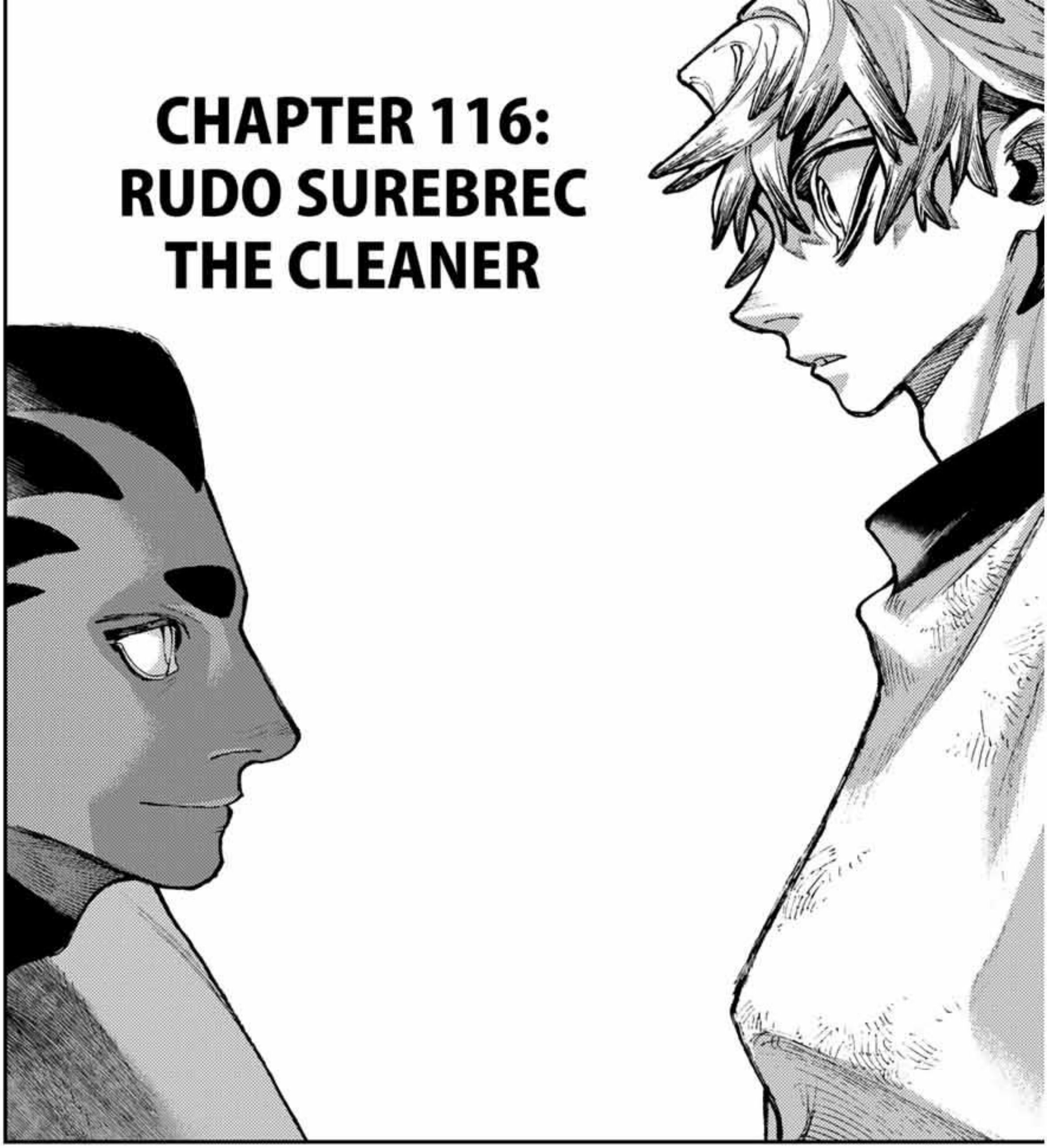
...WERE FORMED TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF OUR WORLD!





...WERE FORMED TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF OUR WORLD!

CHAPTER 116: RUDO SUREBREC THE CLEANER



CERTAIN TEXTS THAT HAVE BEEN ON THE GROUND FOR MORE THAN 150 YEARS...

...FOR SOME REASON SEEM TO HAVE "FADED" IN UNNATURAL PLACES.

FLIP

!

THE MAJORITY OF THESE PASSAGES ARE ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SPHERE AND THE GROUND.

UNLESS YOU BELIEVE THAT EVERY ONE OF THESE MYRIAD WRITERS DELIBERATELY CHOSE TO WRITE THIS WAY.

BUT.

THERE ARE TRACES THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE DID LIVE!!

THE CLUES ARE FAINT, BUT THEY'RE STILL HERE!

WHY WAS THE WORLD DIVIDED?

WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE SPHERE AND THE GROUND ...?

THE IMPORTANT PIECES ARE MISSING.

AND THEY'RE THE ONES THAT WE CAN'T FIND ANYWHERE.

YOU MEAN...?!

MACACA ICOL'S MURAL...

YOU SAW ONE IN CANVAS TOWN.

SOMETHING THAT ONCE BELONGED TO CANIS SUREBREC!

AND YOU'RE WEARING ANOTHER ONE RIGHT NOW!!

THESE DID BELONG TO MY ANCESTOR.

...THEN I WAS RIGHT...

...IS NOT THE KIND OF PLACE THAT MAKES IT EASY TO FIND THINGS.

BUT THE GROUND ...

...AND STARTED LOOKING FOR VESTIGES OF THOSE PEOPLE.

THE FIRST CLEANER NOTICED THESE CLUES...

...THAT ONE PERSON ALONE CAN DO NOTHING.

AND MONSTERS MADE OF TRASH KEPT GETTING IN THE WAY, AND THE FIRST CLEANER WAS FORCED TO REALIZE...

MOUNTAINS OF WASTE TOO LARGE TO EVER FULLY DISPOSE OF...

AN ORGANIZATION DESIGNED TO CLEAN UP TRASH BEASTS AND CLEAR AWAY THE DEBRIS THAT HAS BURIED OUR WORLD'S SECRETS!

AND SO WE WERE FORMED!

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS NOW?

IF YOU'D TOLD ME AT THE BEGINNING, I WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN SO LONG TO...

BUT WHY...?

AND THAT'S...

...WHY THE CLEANERS EXIST...

CAN YOU HONESTLY TELL ME THAT I COULD HAVE TOLD YOU THIS WHEN WE FIRST MET AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN TOTALLY CONFUSED?

I...!

UM...

...MAYBE NOT.

AND NOW YOU'VE ARRIVED AT THE STAGE WHERE I CAN TELL YOU THESE THINGS.

WHAT YOU NEEDED WAS TO FEEL LIKE YOU HAD GAINED INFORMATION FOR YOURSELF.

EVEN IF YOU HAD HELP TO DO IT, THERE'S REAL SIGNIFICANCE IN HAVING MADE THE EFFORT YOURSELF.

...PEOPLE JOIN THE CLEANERS FOR ALL KINDS OF REASONS.

...SO THE GUYS WHO DON'T KNOW THIS STUFF HAVEN'T REACHED THIS STAGE?

SOME WANT TO PROTECT PEOPLE FROM THE TRASH BEASTS.

SOME WANT TO ERADICATE THE TRASH BEASTS.

SOME WANT A PLACE TO BELONG.

SOME ARE LOOKING FOR POWER.

... EVERYONE HERE HAS THEIR OWN VALUES.

TO MAKE A LIVING, TO HELP THEIR FAMILY, TO HAVE FUN.

"I SHOULD JUST TELL THEM EVERY-THING."

I KNOW THAT.

BUT... I *CAN'T.*

WHAT I'VE BE-COME ...

...IS FAR FROM WHAT YOU'D CALL RIGHTEOUS...

SO I KEEP SENDING THESE PEOPLE— PEOPLE WHO KNOW NOTHING— INTO DANGER.

BUT ...!

...!

...

I HAVE TO KEEP GOING ...!!

FOR MY FRIEND...!!

AND WHAT IT COMES DOWN TO IS, I'M USING ALL OF THEM.

I'M GOING TO HELP YOU, AND IN EXCHANGE, I WANT YOU TO HELP ME!!

SO I'M GOING TO USE YOU, TOO!

WE CAN EXPOSE THE WORLD'S SECRETS TOGETHER!!

THERE'S THIS BIG, TALL GUY IN FRONT OF ME, SPEAKING POLITELY AND ACTING LIKE THE DEFINITION OF "GENTLEMAN."

I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S STILL HIDING THINGS FROM ME.

AND...

A "RIGHTEOUS" PERSON WOULD PROBABLY NOT USE THOSE WORDS.

BUT...

...

FOR SOME REASON, THIS MAN...

AND HE'S TELLING ME TO MY FACE THAT HE'S USING ME.

...BUT IS VERY **SINCERE.**

...SEEMS LIKE HE'S COVERED IN MUD...

I'M DONE BEING RUDO THE SPHEREITE!

GRAB

I'M RUDO SUREBREC THE CLEANER NOW!!

IF GIVING YOU WHAT YOU WANT HELPS ME GET WHAT I WANT,

THEN EVEN IF I HAVE TO DRAG MYSELF ON MY STOMACH, I'LL KEEP FIGHTING WITH YOU!!

...!

I PROMISE, I WON'T LET YOU REGRET USING ME!!

PAT

PAT

...THANK YOU...I APPRECIATE THAT...!!

MY PAST... MY HISTORY... OR...

YOU HAVE NO IDEA... YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY KNOW.

...HOW DEEPLY YOUR WORDS HAVE TOUCHED MY HEART!!

THIS ISN'T RIGHT!!

THIS ISN'T A "BLESS-ING"!!

LET GO...!

LET GO OF ME ...!!

LISTEN TO ME!!!

I SAID LET ME GO!

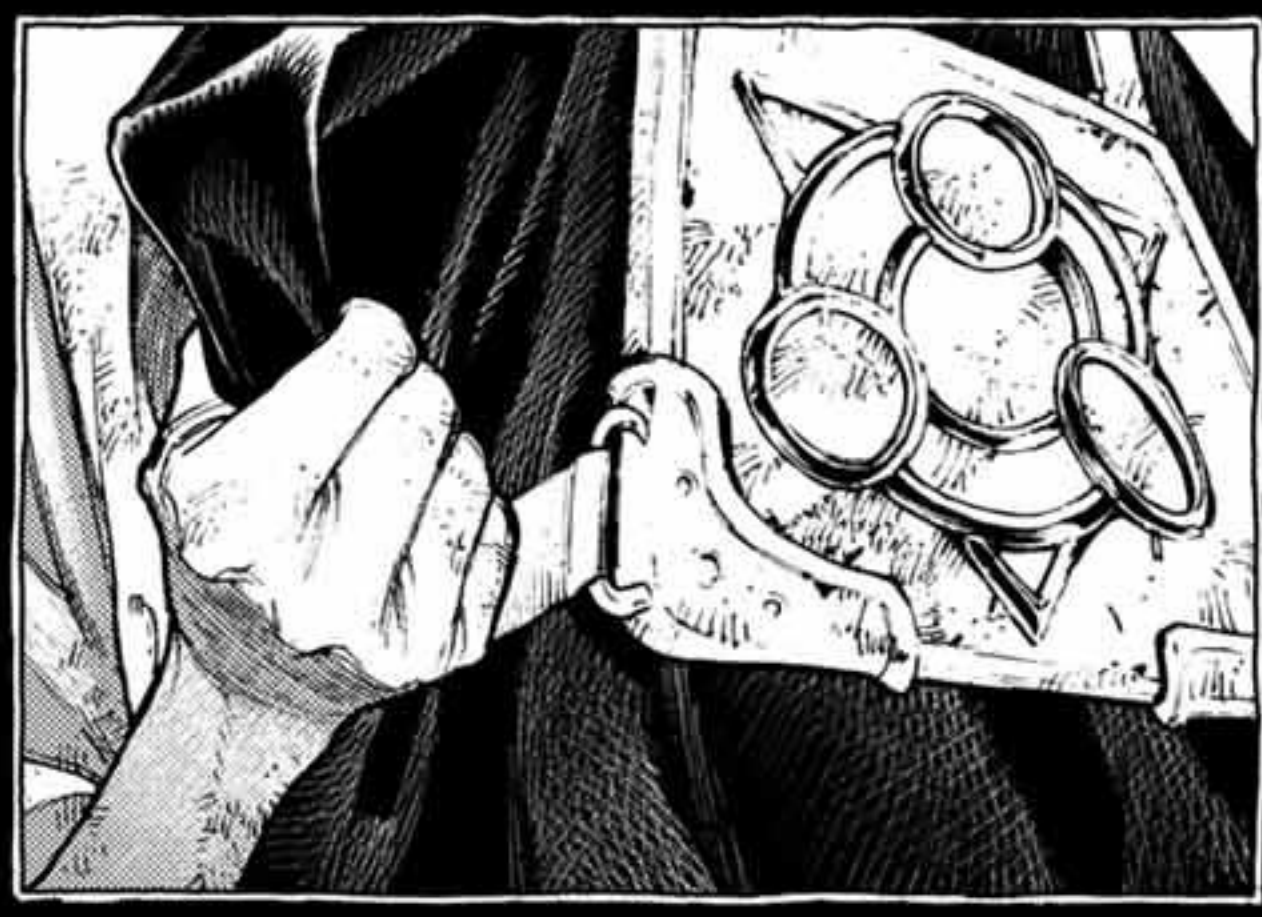
LET GO ...!

AT LEAST LET MY SISTER GO!!!

LET ME GO!!! STOP!!!

MOM !!!

IF THIS IS A WORLD WHERE THINGS ARE TAKEN FROM YOU NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU FIGHT IT...



...I'LL BE THE ONE DOING THE TAKING.

...THEN THIS TIME...

カキカキカキ
SCRITCH SCRITCH SCRITCH

KA-
バチン
CHUNK

KA-
バチン
CHUNK

KA-
ズーン
CHUNK

TO-DO LIST

CHAPTER 117: THE HERO OF THE STORY

RUDO.

IT'S HIGH TIME...

...YOU GOT OFF YOUR BUTT AND GOT TO WORK.

GOT TO... WORK...?

THE MESS HALL

THE CLEANERS HAVE A JOB. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT THAT JOB IS?

...YOU ARE "RUDO SUREBREC THE CLEANER," AREN'T YOU?

...TH-TH... THAT'S... SOMETHING I...CAN'T SAY...

...TH...

WE HAVE TONS! AND TONS!!

OF WORK ORDERS PILING UP!!

SHOONK

IT'S EX-TERMI-NATING TRASH BEASTS!!

UH...

I'M OFF FOR A NIGHT ON THE TOWN!

THAT DEADBEAT WAS ALREADY SLACKING OFF ALL THE TIME TO GO CHASING AFTER WOMEN.

ESPE-CIALLY THAT ENJIN ...!!

EVEN ASSUMING YOUR PERSONAL BUSINESS WILL ULTIMATELY HELP THE ORGANIZATION!

ラ ラ ラ

NOW THAT HE'S SURGICALLY ATTACHED TO **YOU**, HE NEVER DOES ANYTHING!!

IF YOU CAN'T DO THE JOBS WE'RE REQUIRED TO DO, YOU CAN'T CLAIM TO BE A RESPECTABLE CLEANER!!

...

UH... YES, MA'AM ...

I EXPECT YOU TO GO OUT AND COMPLETE A JOB TODAY.

I'LL GIVE YOU THE DETAILS LATER.

WHICH MEANS, RUDO.

スッ

HMPH

テプ テプ

...

I'LL TRY TO REACH HIS LEVEL, MA'AM...

BY THE WAY, ZANKA'S RECOVERED, AND HE'S ALREADY BACK TO WORK.

MEAN-
WHILE...

WHAT!!! MILDRETTA, YOU WERE A SILEIA?!

GARG GARG GARG GARG

YUP. MY HOME-TOWN IS SENO-ZAMA.

SOME TRASH RAINED ON IT AND TURNED IT INTO A POLLUTED ZONE SIX YEARS AGO. THAT'S WHEN THE SILEIA WERE BASICALLY WIPED OUT.

...

ANYWAY, YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SILEIA? THAT'S UNUSUAL.

...DO YOU KNOW A NOERDE...?

NOERDE...? HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT NAME?

UMM!! NEVER MIND!

WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT LATER!!

I LIVED IN A VILLAGE OF WOMEN IN THE SOUTH-LANDS.

THE WARRIOR TRIBE, SILEIA.

MILDRETTA! PLEASE LET ME DRIVE NOW!!

NOW I'M CURI-OUS...

IT'S A REALLY LONG DRIVE FROM THE SOUTH BRANCH TO HQ...!!

I CAN'T LET YOU DO ALL THE WORK.

SO BE A GOOD BOY AND LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOU.

I TOLD YOU I'D DRIVE.

I DON'T NEED ANY OF YOUR AWKWARD CHIVALRY.

SHE IS TOO COOL.

THE MORE EYES WE HAVE ON FU THE BETTER, RIGHT?

BE-SIDES.

EVEN IF THE TWINS DID DECIDE TO TRUST HIM.

デュクシ PA-POW

デュクシ PA-POW

!

RUDO!

FOLLO...

HERE... I GOT YOU A UNIFORM...

THIS ONE'S NEW! I JUST GOT IT FROM AUGUST.

BUT I HAVE ONE...

?

WHEN WE SWITCHED OUTFITS IN NO MAN'S LAND...

I RUINED YOURS, REMEMBER?

...AND ...

"YOU CAN'T! YOU GOT THAT BOX FROM THE INFORMATION BROKER..."

WHILE AUGUST IS WORKING ON THE DOLL FEST COSTUMES,

APPARENTLY HE'S ALSO REDESIGNING ALL THE CLEANERS' UNIFORMS.

RRAAHH!

OF COURSE, YOURS ISN'T FINISHED YET, SO THIS IS THE SAME DESIGN AS THE OLD ONE!

...

?

BUT I HAVE A UNIFORM...

UHH...

...YEAH, BUT YOU KNOW...

"IF YOU NEED SOMETHING TO USE, YOU CAN TAKE MY HAMMER AND..."

"I KNOW YOU WANT INFO, BUT THIS SMELLS LIKE TROUBLE!!"

RUDO TRUSTED ME WITH HIS TREASURE...

BUT THEN I...

I LOOKED AT MY TREASURE.

AND MY MAIN THOUGHT WAS THAT I DIDN'T WANT RUDO TO BREAK IT.

NOTHING! NEVER MIND!

ANYWAY, HERE... WEAR THIS ON YOUR JOB!

OKAY ?

NGH...

...

?

"AND"... WHAT?

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT YOUR BEST.

토닥 TWITCH

YOU DON'T WANT TO WEAR THAT RAGGEDY OLD UNIFORM.

NO THANK YOU.

I CAN STILL WEAR MY OLD UNI-FORM.

BESIDES, I'VE FIXED UP LOTS OF THINGS IN MY LIFE.

SO I CAN MEND A FEW RIPS AND TEARS.

...WHAT?

...FINE THEN...!

...

"AUGUST ...!!"

"DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A SPARE OR SOME-THING...?"

"RUDO'S UNIFORM GOT TORN UP, AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT..."

"OF COURSE I HAVE SPARES, DON'T BE STUPID!!!"

"EXCUSE YOU!! IT SAYS ON THE DOOR, I'M WORKING!!"

"THEY'RE ON THAT SHELF. JUST TAKE WHATEVER!!"

"NO THANK YOU."

ㄷㅇ

HALT

A...

A "SUP-PORT-ER"?

SUPPORT-ERS ARE THEIR LACKEYS!

DON'T CALL THEM EXPEND-ABLES, MAN.

OH... THE CLEANERS' EXPEND-ABLES.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

BUT YOU'RE NOT A GIVER, ARE YOU?

WHAT? YOU FIGHT TRASH BEASTS?

NORMAL PEOPLE LIKE US WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND THEIR BREED, WILL WE? WILL WE, BABY?

I'VE TALKED WITH GIVERS BEFORE...

THEY'RE A BUNCH OF BABIES WHO CAN'T LET GO, BUT THINK THAT MAKES THEM SUPERIOR.

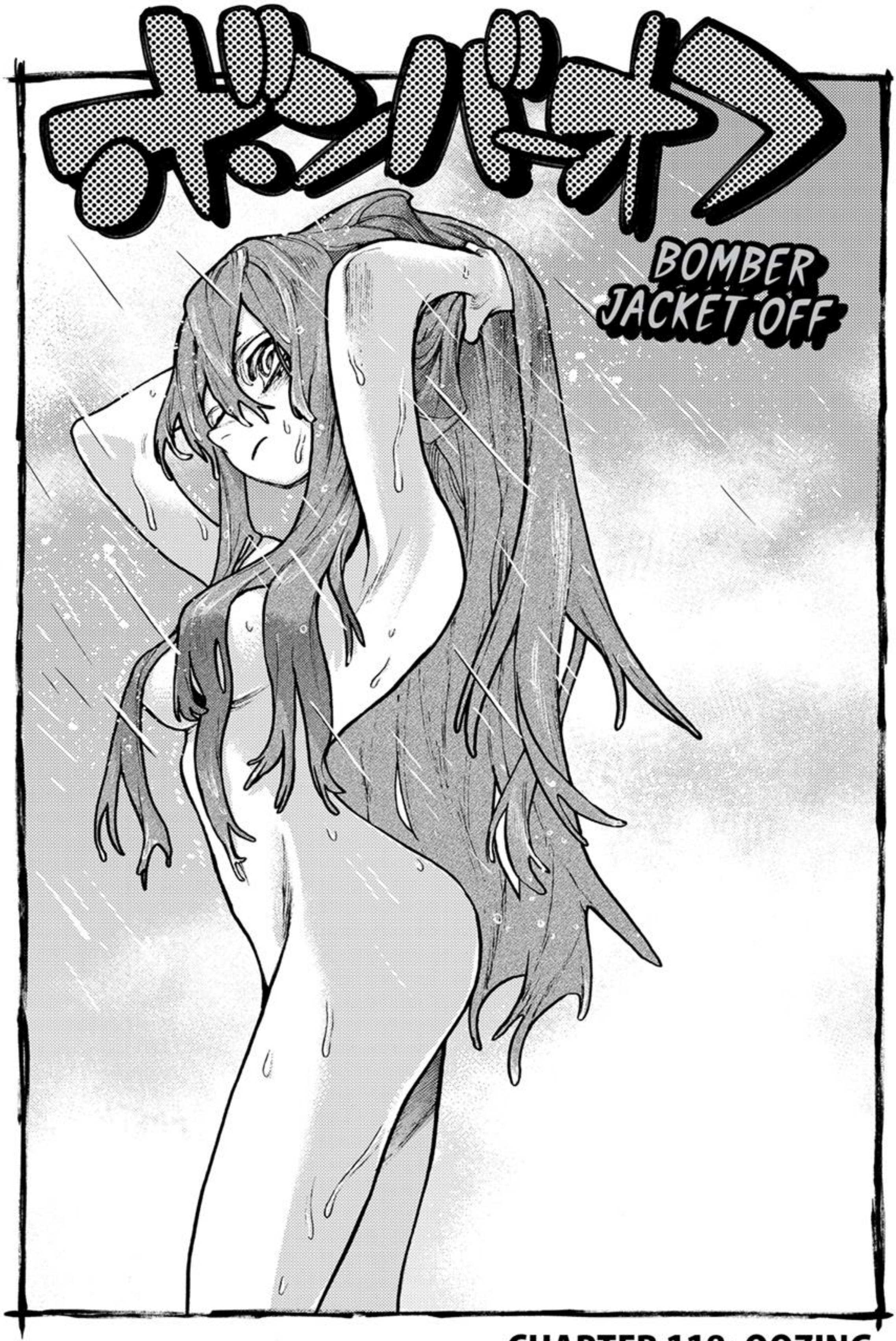
I'M GONNA BE A GIVER AND JOIN THE CLEANERS!

HEY, FOLLO! GUESS WHAT.

CHAPTER 117: THE HERO OF THE STORY

IS WHAT HE COULD NEVER BE

THUD



CHAPTER 118: OOZING

CLANG

I'M BA-ACK!!

OH, MAN, THE SOUTH BRANCH SURE IS FAR AWAY!

BUT THANKS TO MILDRETTA'S DRIVING, IT ONLY TOOK US A DAY AND A HALF TO GET...

...HERE ...

WELCOME BACK.

SEMIU IS DYING!!

ARE YOU HEALING UP OKAY...?

EVERY SO OFTEN, WE GET OUTBREAKS OF TRASH BEASTS ALL OVER THE PLACE, ALL AT ONCE...

AND IT'S MY JOB TO FIELD ALL THE REQUESTS AND ASSIGN PEOPLE TO HANDLE THEM.

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM.

I KNOW I CHOSE TO DO THIS, BUT IT CAN BE BACK-BREAK...

...

SEMIU... DON'T TELL ME... WE HAVE A JOB RUSH?

YES, WE DO...

WELL... I CAN'T SPEAK FOR RIYO OR MILDRETTA.

BUT I'M NOT HURT, AND I'M NOT BUSY, SO YOU CAN CALL ON ME ANYTIME–

REALLY? THEN I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU RIGHT NOW.

パラリ

FLIP

KRK

EXCUSE ME, I LOST MY COOL FOR A MINUTE.

GIVE ME A MINUTE TO TAKE SOME SUPPLE-MENTS.

SO THE DIRTY MAGAZINES WERE HEALTH SUPPLE-MENTS...

BOW

BOW

EH HEH... EH HEH HEH...

I FEEL KINDA BAD...

I ONLY BROUGHT THEM HERE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS GUY, AFTER ALL.

IF THIS IS HOW THINGS ARE HERE, I BET THE SOUTH BRANCH IS SWAMPED, TOO.

I'LL TAKE THE TWINS, AND WE'LL HEAD OUT TOMORROW.

DO YOU THINK THIS MEANS THEY TRUST US...?

BUT WE JUST SLIPPED RIGHT IN.

YOU KNOW, I HEARD THE CLEANERS WERE REALLY GUARDED.

THANK YOU, TOO, ADDEROY BROTHERS.

YOU'RE A LIFE SAVER, MILDRETTA.

Y—

E#7

WINCE

YES, MA'AM ?!

YOU.

I'LL LOOK YOU OVER AFTER THAT.

I'VE BEEN TOLD TO TAKE YOU TO THE BOSS AS SOON AS YOU GET HERE.

ズルルルー

ZHRRRR

...

WHA ?!

SALUTE

SHE'S TAKING YOU IN.

HE SAID I NEED TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU.

RUDO WOULDN'T LET ME LEAVE.

NO, IT'S NOT EXACTLY A **NEED.**

OH, DOES THIS MEAN RUDO'S ALREADY OUT ON A JOB?

DID YOU NEED TO TALK TO HIM?

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SEND HIM OFF.

I JUST...

...THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO SEE HIM.

...?
WHAT'S WRONG, SEMIU?

NNNNGH. NOTHING.

PTAM パラパラ

...OH... OKAY...

...

TEP TEP TEP トトトッ

I SAW HIM IN THE MESS HALL HALF AN HOUR AGO, BUT HE MIGHT BE BACK IN HIS ROOM BY NOW.

YOU GOT IT! AND I'LL TAKE A JOB LATER, TOO!

IF YOU FIND HIM, WILL YOU TELL HIM TO COME SEE ME IMMEDIATELY?

MESS HALL

RUDO'S ROOM

RESTROOM

?!

...I FIGURED IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING...

!

THAT'S RUDO'S VOICE.

THE INFIR-MARY...

キィィィィィ…… CREEEAK

カチャ…… KA-CHAK

TEE HEE HEE HEE.

TEE HEE HEE. RUDO GAVE ME A TULIP...

THIS FLOWER... IS CALLED A TULIP.

WHAT? YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH IT?

NO. I LOVE IT.

ALL BECAUSE OF YOU, RUDO. THANK YOU.

...

YEAH... AMO HAS MUCH MORE ENERGY NOW.

SO...IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FEELING A LOT BETTER.

RIYO...!! YOU'RE BACK... ARE YOU OKAY NOW?!

CLATTER

YEAH, I'M FINE. EISHIA FIXED ME RIGHT UP.

KNOCK KNOCK

!

...HEY, RUDO!

SEMIU'S ASKING FOR YOU.

SEE YOU, TOO, AMO!

UHH... I'M NOT SURE I UNDER-STAND, BUT SEE YOU LATER!

GO ON!

GO ON!

GO ON!

GO ON!

GO ON!

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

TAAA

TEP TEP TEP TEP

TAAA

TEP TEP TEP

CLAP

BUT NEVER MIND ME!

YOU HAVE WORK TO DO!

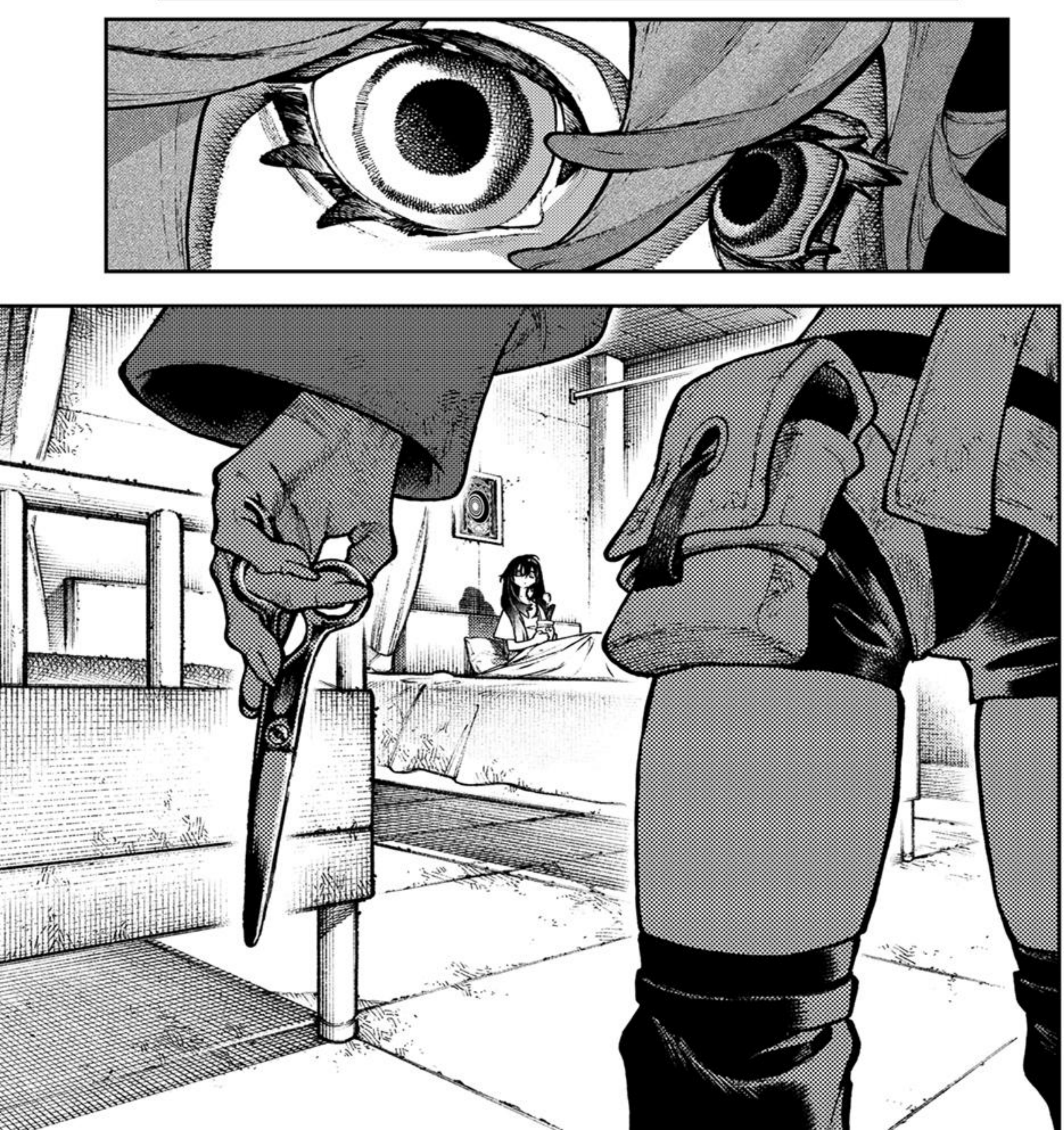
IF YOU DON'T HURRY, SEMIU'S GONNA PASS OUT!

P... PASS OUT ...?

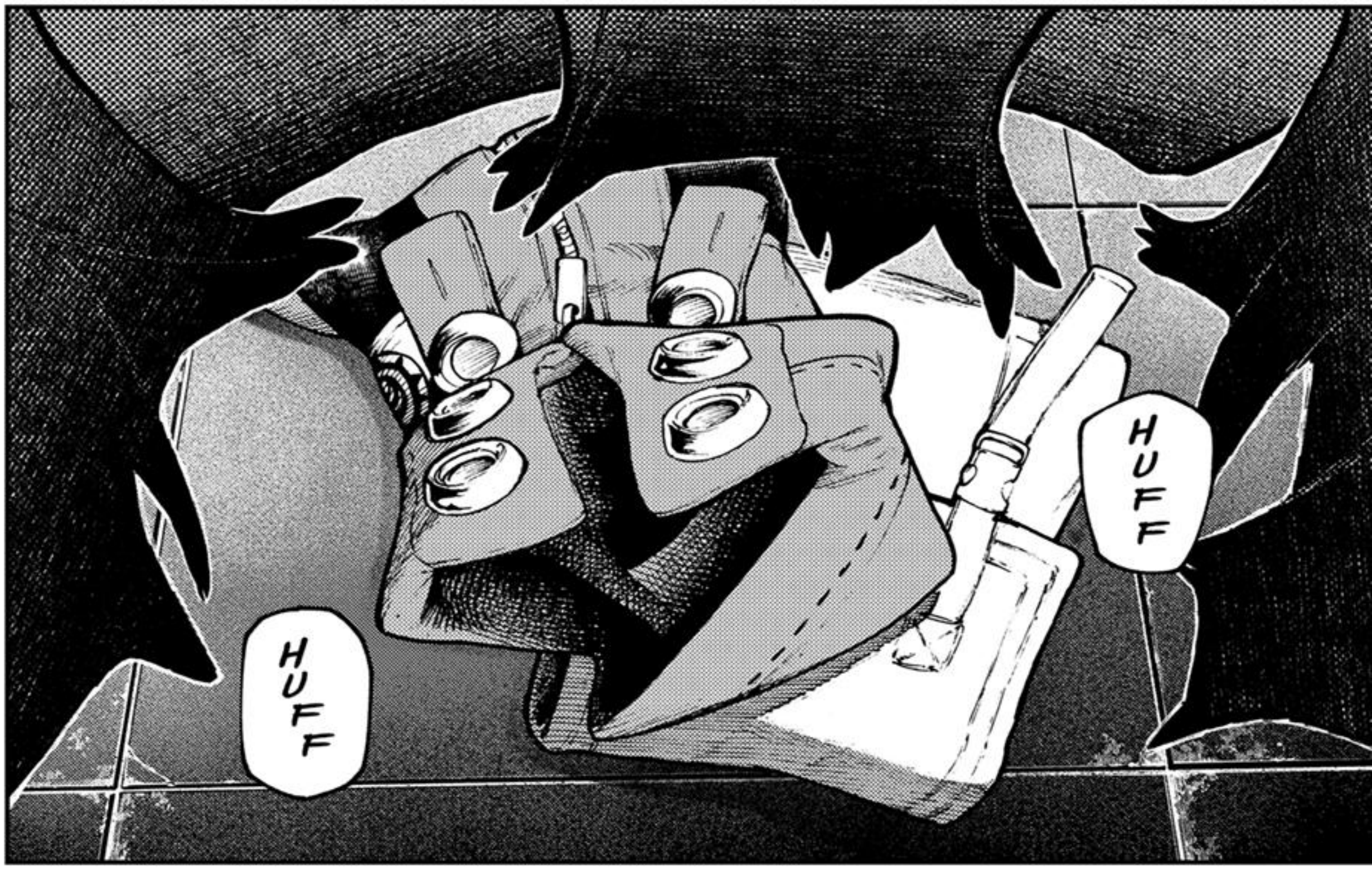
TEP TEP TEP TEP

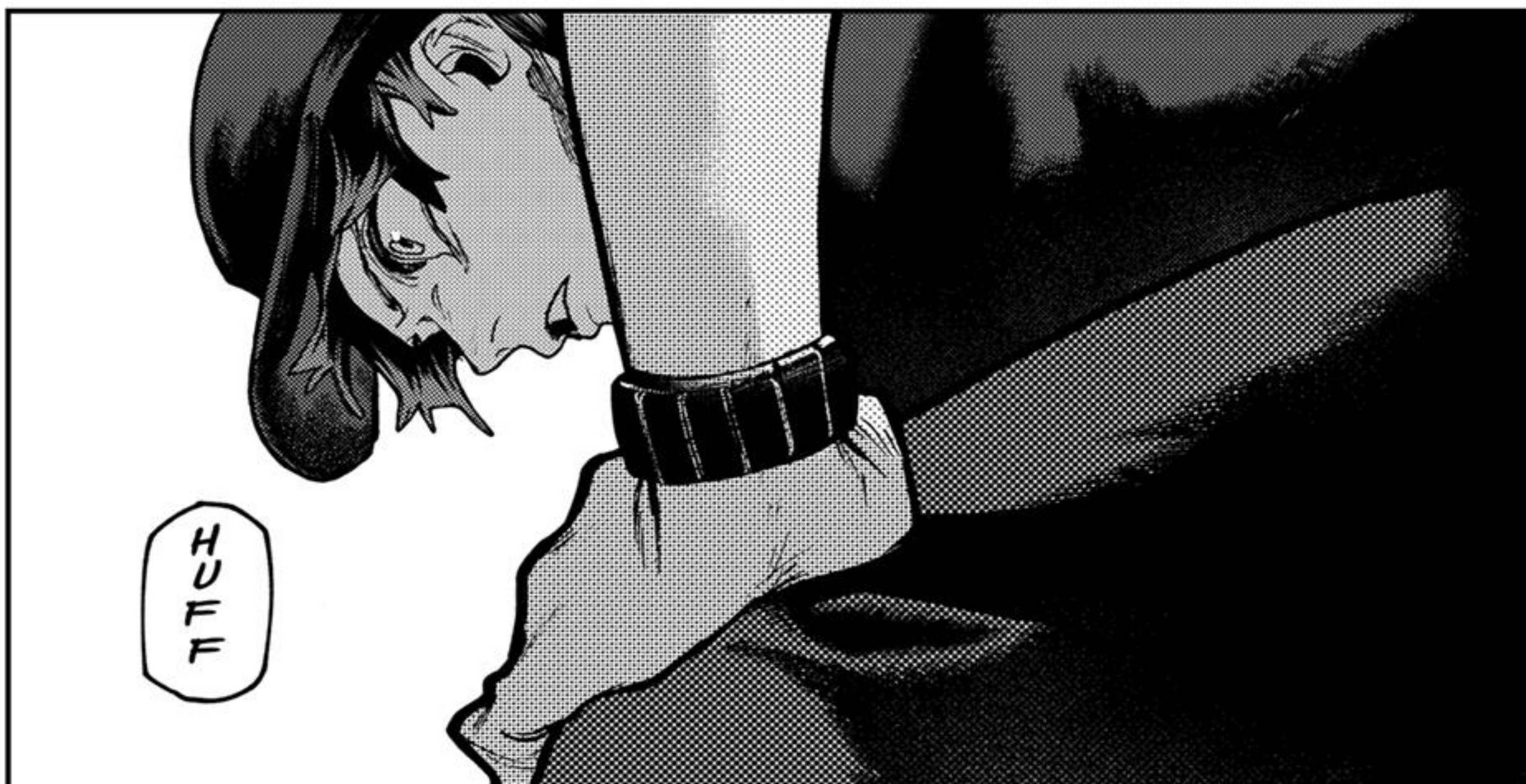
TAAA

HAVE A GOOD TIME!



PTAM 11 月ーノ……





... DAMMIT ...

ACTING LIKE THIS ISN'T GOING TO HELP ANYTHING...

WHAT AM I DOING...?

PAT
PAT
SQUEAK
I CAN AT LEAST GIVE IT TO HIM.
RUDO CAN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT THAT.

...

...

I'M GONNA LET YOU HANG ON TO THIS SPARE UNIFORM.

KA-CHAK

RUDO!

CLANG

CLANG

WHAM

?

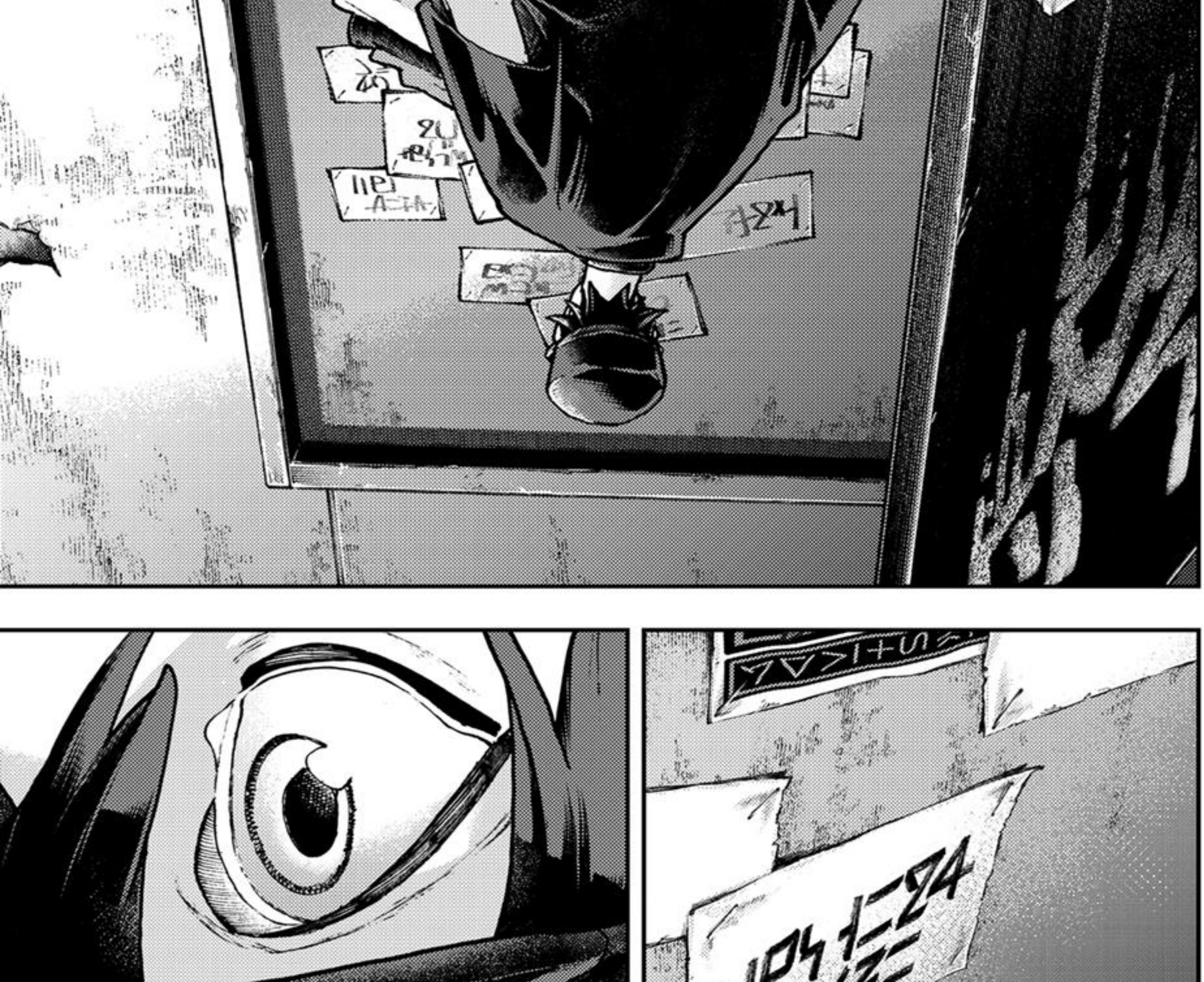
HUSH

WHY DOES HE LEAVE HIS DOOR UNLOCKED WHEN HE'S NOT THERE...?

CREEEAK

IF YOU KEEP FIGHTING, IT'S GONNA FALL APART SOME... DAY...

TO-DO LIST



...

I JUST HAD A THING TO DO...

GRIS

FOLLO! WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

SFF

...

KH-KH

KH-KH

KH-KH-KH

KH-KH

KH-KH

...FOLLO?

ANYWAY, WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY JOB. WE'RE HEADING OUT NOW!

...? WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SOUND UNUSUALLY GRUMPY...

I'M COMING...

FOLLO ?

TEN DAYS TO DOLL FEST

BLACK BALLS !!!

THEY WERE BLACK ...!!

AND THEY CAME RIGHT INTO OUR MOUTHS!!

FLOATING BLACK BALLS!!

...UH, OKAY, GOT IT!

THEN WE ESCAPED THE VILLAGE AND NOW HERE WE ARE!!

WE MANAGED TO SPIT THEM OUT SOMEHOW!

WE'RE HERE NOW!

YOU CAN LEAVE IT TO US CLEANERS!!

MR. OLD FART !!!

OUCH!

WHAP

DON'T CALL OUR CLIENT AN OLD FART!!!

GRIS

OOPS...

AND YOU CAN'T JUST SAY "GOT IT" AND BE DONE WITH IT!

WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING— YOU HAVE TO ASK FOR DETAILS!!

HE'S NOT JUST OBSERVING NOW—THIS IS HIS FIRST OFFICIAL JOB.

GIVE HIM A BREAK, GRIS.

MORE DETAILS!! MORE!!

U_U

SHE SAID THE SAME THING AS THE OLD FART.

BUT I THOUGHT WE GOT THE DETAILS WHEN SEMIU GAVE US THE JOB...

CHAPTER 119: FIRST JOB!

WOULD YOU NOT TALK ABOUT A "TIME TO SHINE" IN FRONT OF THE VICTIMS?! ARE YOU PEOPLE THAT HEARTLESS??!

OOPS...

WITHOUT ENJIN OR ZANKA AROUND, GRIS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN KNOCK ANY SANITY INTO THESE PEOPLE...

...

THIS IS RUDO'S TIME TO SHINE.

AND WE NEED TO SHOW HIM OUR SUPPORT.

ON THIS JOB, YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW US WHAT "RUDO THE CLEANER" CAN REALLY DO.

BOSS'S ORDERS.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE NOT LETTING ENJIN GO WITH YOU.

THIS WILL BE OUR FIRST JOB FOR A CLIENT TOGETHER.

I'LL HAVE YOUR BACK, SO YOU CAN WIELD YOUR POWERS TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.

...THANKS!

THAT SAID, THIS IS YOUR FIRST JOB. I CAN'T SEND YOU AS THE ONLY GIVER.

SO TAMSY HAS AGREED TO GO ALONG AND BACK YOU UP.

I'LL SHOW HIM WHAT I CAN DO AS A CLEANER!!

I MADE A BIG PROMISE TO CORVUS.

YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO DO THIS, RUDO.

EVERY-ONE KNOWS THAT.

BUT THE THING IS.

GASP!!

UH, NO...! I MEANT EX... EX... PLODE!

HUH...? EXPOSE WHAT...?

TO EXPOSE IT!!

LIKE, IS THERE AN INSTRUMENT THAT EXPLODES?

...KIND OF THING...

...“STRENGTH” ALONE WON’T CUT IT.

IF YOU’RE GOING TO WORK AS A CLEANER...

A LOT OF THE TIME, THERE WILL BE VICTIMS OUT THERE, TOO.

OUT ON THE FIELD, YOU CAN’T BE SURE THAT YOU’LL **ONLY** RUN INTO TRASH BEASTS.

ALL RIGHT, NEXT.

AND DON’T YOU FORGET THAT. RUDO THE CLEANER.

WHERE ARE THE TRASH BEASTS ?!!

HOW MANY OF THEM ARE THERE?!!

HUH?

JUST A–

WHAT ?!

OLLLLLD... SIR!!! PLEASE TELL ME MORE!!

DRINK

AAAHH!!

W...WAAHH!

DETAILS!! I NEED MORE DETAILS!!!

RUDO, STAY! SIT!! HEEL!!!

...!

IN THAT CASE, WE CAN CLEAN THEM UP WITH VITAL INSTRUMENTS.

ARE THOSE TRASH BEASTS STILL IN THE VILLAGE?

ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE THOSE "BLACK BALLS" WERE TRASH BEASTS?

SIR.

HUH?? UH... YES...I'M SURE...

NO... AS FAR AS I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TELL, EVERYONE IS SAFE AND ACCOUNTED FOR.

ARE THERE ANY INJURED OR MISSING?

THAT'S GOOD... NOW, TELL ME ABOUT THE TRASH BEASTS.

IT WAS ALL WE COULD DO JUST TO GET AWAY FROM THEM.

YES... THEY SHOULD STILL BE THERE. WHOLE SWARMS OF THEM, BURSTING OUT OF THE HOUSE...

WILL WE... EVER BE ABLE TO LIVE IN OUR VILLAGE AGAIN...?

DON'T WORRY.

THANK YOU FOR THIS IN-FORMA-TION.

YOU'VE BEEN VERY HELPFUL.

YOU'LL BE BACK TO LIFE AS USUAL IN NO TIME.

OOOH...

WE HAVE EXCELLENT PEOPLE WORKING IN THE CLEANERS.

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING NOW.

YOU'RE GETTING VERY GOOD AT CLIENT RELATIONS!!

I'M PROUD OF YOU, FOLLO!

IT'S NOTHING...

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

THANK GOOD-NESS...

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO DIE OUT HERE...

WELL DONE.

WELL DONE.

WE'LL BE SAFE NOW...

THIS KIND OF THING IS WHAT SUPPORTERS ARE FOR.

AFTER ALL, I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH...

...TO BEAT TRASH BEASTS...

WHOOOSH

I'M SURPRISED ANYONE CAN LIVE HERE.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP THE TRASH BEASTS OUT.

THEY'RE RIGHT NEXT TO A POLLUTED ZONE, SO THEY HAVE TO LIVE ON THE EDGE OF A CLIFF.

ONE WRONG STEP, AND IT'S OVER. NO HOPE.

BUT THE OLD MAN SAID...

...SWARMS OF THEM BURST OUT OF A HOUSE.

BUT THEY GOT INFESTED ANYWAY.

JUST GOES TO SHOW, IF YOU WANT A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE, YOU NEED MONEY.

HONESTLY, IT'S THE SAME EVERYWHERE YOU GO.

!

OR DID THEY COME IN LATER...?

DOES THAT MEAN THEY'D BEEN LURKING IN THE HOUSE ALL THAT TIME...?

HERE IT IS...

GENIA,
EAST WARD
KREMMOS VILLAGE

THEY ENTER THROUGH THE MOUTH, AND WE CAN DEDUCE...

...THAT THEIR GOAL IS TO EITHER SUFFOCATE PEOPLE OR DESTROY THEM FROM THE INSIDE.

APPARENTLY THE OUTBREAK OF TRASH BEASTS STARTED IN THE HOUSE IN THE BACK OF THE VILLAGE.

BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A LOT OF THEM, SO WE NEED TO STAY ON OUR GUARD, AND–

OF COURSE, WE'RE WEARING MASKS, SO I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT...

THEY WON'T BE A PROBLEM WHEN WE TURN THEM ALL INTO DUST.

CRREAK

THESE TRASH BEASTS ARE GOING DOWN.

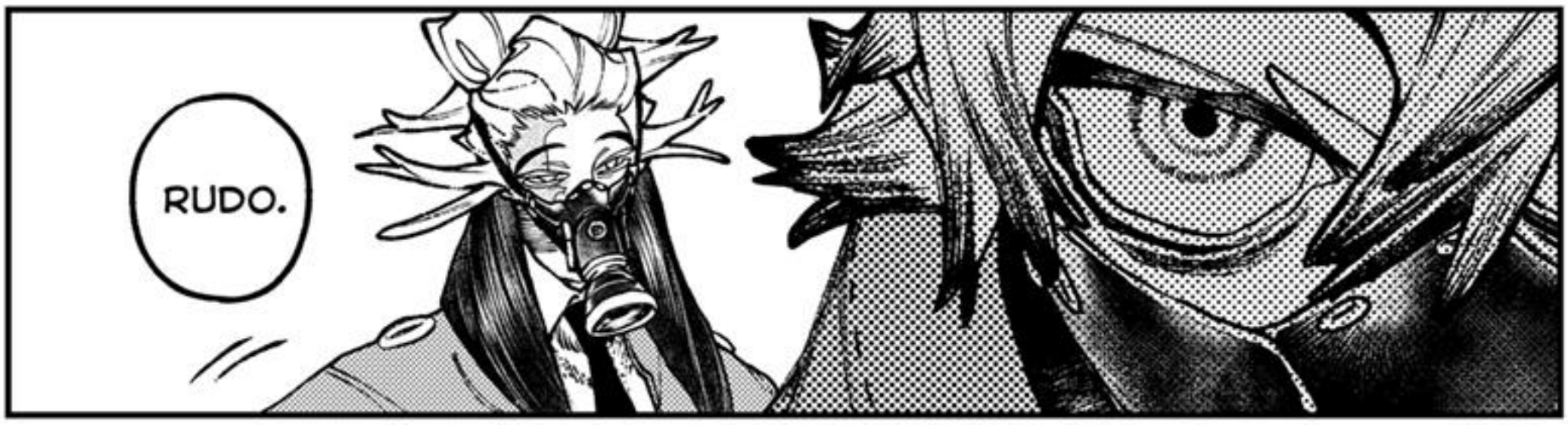
I'VE CHOSEN THE TRASH FOR THEM.

MURMUR

SNAP

MURMUR...

ヲヨ...
BOING


RUDO.

ZWO-
ZWO-
ZWOH
...I HOPE YOU DIDN'T PICK SOMETHING THAT CAN ONLY ATTACK POINTS.

MURMUR
THESE TRASH BEASTS ARE SMALL ENOUGH TO FIT IN THE MOUTH.
WHEN YOU CHOSE YOUR WEAPON TO CLEAN THEM UP...

OF COURSE NOT.

ゴゥン

RUMMAGE

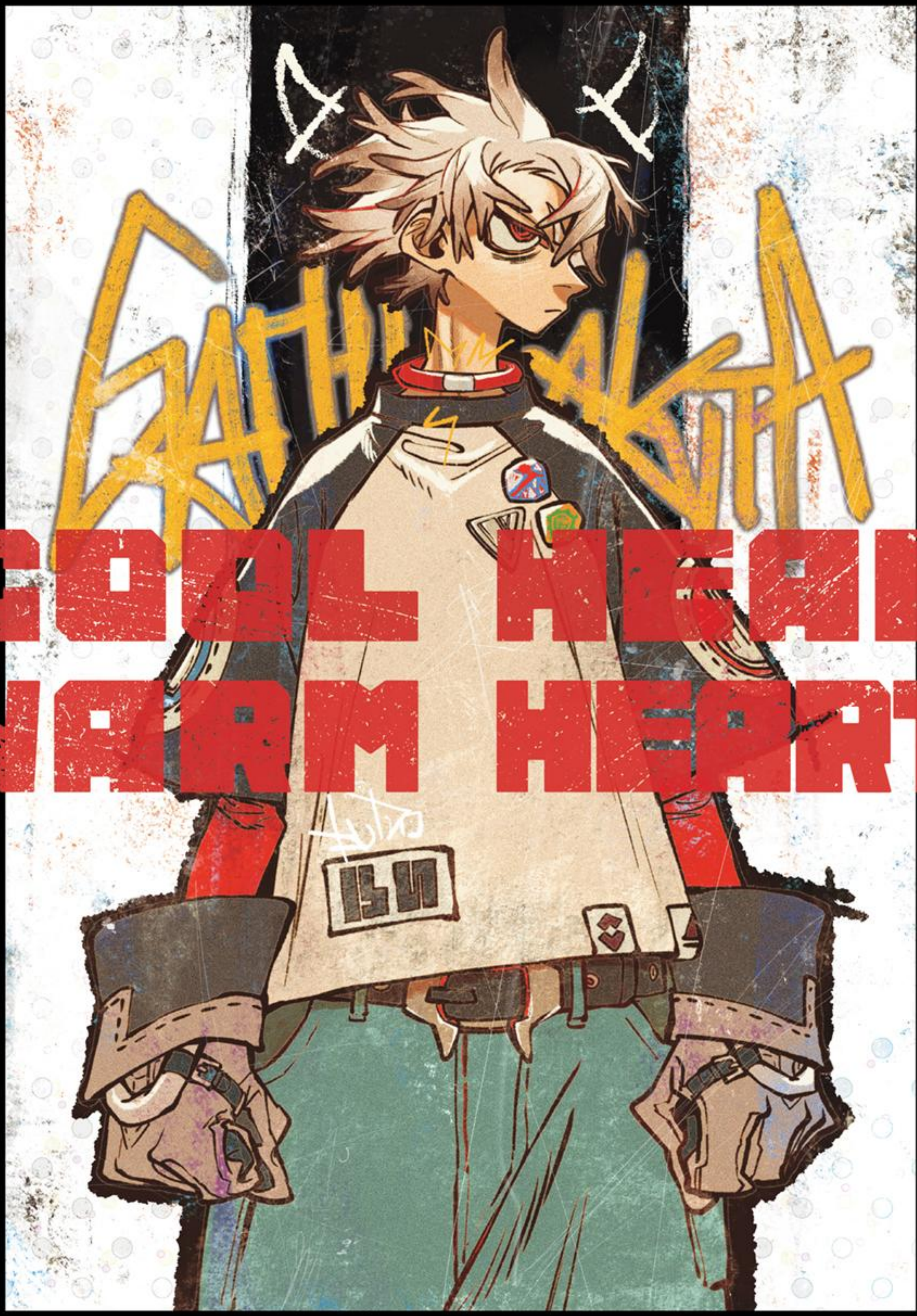
TO GET LITTLE GUYS...

...YOU NEED TO GET THE WHOLE SURFACE.

AND THAT MEANS...

...YOU NEED A NET!!

HE COPIED MY THING...



CHAPTER 120: THE SUN SETS

FWOOSH

THESE THINGS ARE MADE OF DUST?!

...OH NO. DON'T TELL ME.

FOLLO! ALL OUR ATTACKS ARE DOING IS TURNING THEM TO POWDER!

THEY'RE DUST TRASH BEASTS! THERE'S GONNA BE NO END TO THEM...

...!

THEY WON'T ATTACK AGAIN UNTIL THEY'VE REFORMED INTO BALLS, BUT THE TWO OF US WILL NEVER STOP THEM!

WE NEED TO STAND DOWN!

THEN WE WERE RIGHT TO BRING THEM...

VITAL
INSTRUMENT:

3R

VITAL
INSTRUMENT:

TOKUSHIN

MY, MY.

EVEN CONSIDERING I'M HOLDING BACK, IT'S IMPRESSIVE THAT RUDO CAN GENERATE POWER EQUAL TO MY TOKUSHIN WITH JUST ONE USE OF HIS ABILITY...

WHAT A WASTE.

ZU

WOOSH

TMP

IT'S NOT A SWARM— IT'S ACTING LIKE A SINGLE MONSTER!!

WHAM

PA-SHOOM

RUDO GOES IN FIRST.

HE CUTS OPEN A PATH.

THEN, WHEN THE TRASH BEASTS' RANKS ARE BROKEN...

GZHNG

REALLY, IT WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT, SINCE RUDO HAS HIGHER MOBILITY, TO HAVE TAMSY ATTACK FIRST AND LET RUDO GET THE STRAGGLERS... BUT...

HE HAS THE POWER TO CHARGE AHEAD WITH NO ANXIETY, NO DISTRACTING THOUGHTS, NO SECOND-GUESSING HIS ABILITIES...

HE UNDERSTANDS HIS ROLE ON THIS MISSION AND HAS THE POWER TO BACK RUDO UP, TO FOLLOW HIS LEAD WITHOUT ANY DISCUSSION...

THIS IS RUDO'S FIRST JOB.

PA-SHOOM

...TAMSY CATCHES THE LEFTOVERS.

*DISPARITY

IT'S LIKE NOTHING'S HOLDING ME BACK...

I'LL HAVE YOUR BACK, SO YOU CAN WIELD YOUR POWERS TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.

BECAUSE TAMSY'S TAKING CARE OF EVERYTHING FOR ME.

I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY ATTACKS FROM BEHIND, SO I CAN KEEP MOVING FORWARD...

TAMSY'S AWESOME.

OH, DEAR!

BUT THEY'RE BACK.

WE KILLED THEM WITH OUR INSTRU-MENTS.

HEY, GET BACK HERE!!

!!

FLEE

ゴゴゴ

...DIDN'T DESTROY THEM?!

THE VITAL INSTRUMENTS...

AND THESE ONES DON'T HAVE CORES LIKE THAT OTHER TRASH BEAST...

TRASH BEASTS' WEAK POINTS ARE THE SAME AS REGULAR LIVING CREATURES'... IF YOU GRIND THEM TO POWDER WITH A VITAL INSTRUMENT, THAT SHOULD ALWAYS WIPE THEM OUT.

WHICH MEANS...

...THERE'S A MAIN BODY SOMEWHERE.

FLIP

OH!

THAT STARTLED ME...

ズリ
ZHRR

IS THAT THE MAIN BODY OF THOSE PUFF BALLS...?!

IT'S WEARING CLOTHES AND CARRYING A WEAPON...

IS THAT ITS PLAN TO DEAL WITH OUR NETS?

IS IT USING THE CLOTHES AS A KIND OF ARMOR?

IT'S CREEPY HOW HUMAN IT LOOKS.

ARMOR...

THEN WE BETTER NOT BE STINGY, EITHER.

ゴソ

I'M GONNA HUFF AND PUFF...

SFF スッ...

DRYER

...AND BLOW YOUR PLAN DOWN!!

WHOOSH

RRRRRR

WHIRL

FWOOOOSH

PA-SHOOM

HE WEAPONIZES TWO ITEMS AT ONCE, AND FIGHTS WITH BOTH OF THEM.

HE HAS COMPLETELY MASTERED THOSE GLOVES.

SUCH A WASTE.

IT'S OVER!!

FWOOSH

...

RUSTLE

WAS THAT REALLY THE MAIN BODY...?

CHAPTER 121: DARKNESS FALLS

I DID IT...
I FINISHED MY FIRST JOB...

ほっ...
WHEW

DON'T TURN YOUR POWERS OFF JUST YET, RUDO.

UH WHA...?

WHY...

HOLD ON.

IT'S POSSIBLE THERE ARE STILL TRASH BEASTS LURKING ABOUT, YOU KNOW.

BUT STRONG POWERS ARE NOT ENERGY EFFICIENT.

IF YOU TURN YOUR POWERS OFF, THE OBJECTS YOU'RE USING NOW WILL DISINTEGRATE, NO?

YOUR POWER LETS YOU TRANSFORM AN OBJECT INTO A WEAPON UP TO THREE TIMES, CORRECT?

EVEN CONSIDERING THE BOOST IT GETS FROM THE WATCHMAN SERIES OR WHATEVER YOU CALL IT, I THINK IT'S A VERY UNIQUE AND POTENT ABILITY.

...YEAH... THESE LITTLE GUYS SQUEEZED OUT ALL THE ENERGY THEY HAVE LEFT TO HELP ME FIGHT—

YES, EXACTLY.

ONCE THEY DISAP-PEAR...

...YOU'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO USE ONE MORE.

HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT HOW LONG IT TAKES BEFORE YOU CAN USE YOUR POWERS AGAIN?

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU WHEN YOU'VE USED YOUR ABILITY ALL THREE TIMES?

IF THERE'S A MORE POWERFUL TRASH BEAST HIDING SOMEWHERE, YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGHT IT WITH ONLY THE ONE OBJECT YOU HAVE LEFT.

UH...

VITAL INSTRUMENTS DON'T COME WITH USER'S MANUALS. THE OWNER HAS TO WRITE IT THEMSELF.

CLANG

CLANG ガン

HE'S RIGHT, RUDO! MOST PEOPLE GET NERVOUS AND FREEZE UP, BUT YOU DID SOME IMPRESSIVE WORK!

I'D SAY YOU'VE DONE WELL FOR YOUR FIRST JOB. FINDING SOMETHING TO WORK ON IS THE PRECURSOR TO PROGRESS.

BUT, WELL...

...

RUDO

I SEE...

AND...

WE NEED TO SEARCH FOR MORE TRASH BEASTS, FIND OUT HOW THEY GOT IN...

BUT THE CLEANERS' JOB ISN'T DONE YET!

THE REASON I MANAGED TO SURVIVE THIS LONG IS THAT I HAD THE OTHER CLEANERS TO BAIL ME OUT...

UNTIL NOW, I JUST DOVE INTO BATTLE WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.

CLENCH

ALL THIS TIME...

...I'VE BEEN LUCKY.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!! FIRST, THE VILLAGE ENTRANCE...

ALL RIGHT, WHAT ELSE SHOULD I DO?

...

RUDO...

...HAS SOME-THING I DON'T.

...I JUST HAVE TO GET IT!

IF I DON'T HAVE WHAT HE HAS...

ZSH

RUDO!

PRIDE AND OTHER PEOPLE'S OPIN-IONS...

THEY ONLY GET IN THE WAY.

GRIP

HGH!!

COULD YOU TELL ME THE SECRET TO BEING A GIVER?

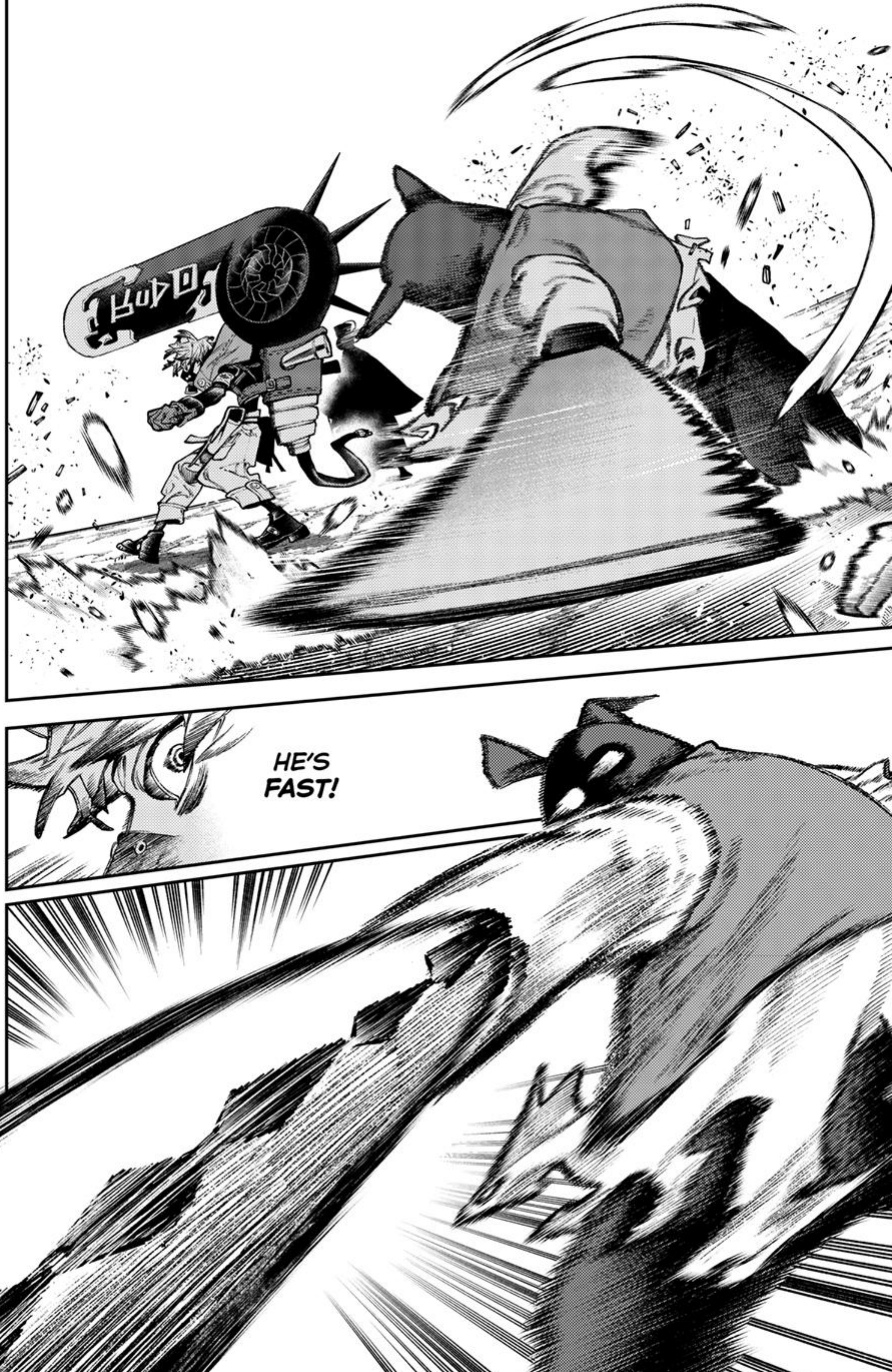
I...

ZISH

?!

WHA...

WE'RE NOT DONE YET?!!


HE'S
FAST!

KA-KLING

MY DRYER!

HE WENT STRAIGHT FOR IT!!

KA-

CLANK

I'LL BLOW YOU DOWN AGAIN!!

THE LITTLE...!

IT'S PREPARED AGAINST THEIR NETS AND THEIR WIND...!!

OF COURSE !!

GASP

LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING THEM AS PAWNS...

AND IF THEY BEAT THIS ONE, WE'LL SEE ANOTHER TRASH BEAST WITH A NEW PLAN...

ALL OF THESE TRASH BEASTS WERE COMING IN AND OUT OF THAT HOUSE!

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S SIMPLE!

OF COURSE ...!!

TEP

FOLLO ?!

THE MAIN BODY IS IN THE HOUSE!!!

IT'S IN THE HOUSE!

WHAT?

THIS ISN'T...A HOUSE OF STRAW...

WHY IS IT SO PIECE-MEAL...?

IT'S MADE OF WOOD...?

SNAP ハピ

SNAP ハピ

SNAP ハピ

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE ゴゴゴゴゴゴ!!

SNAP ハピ

SNAP ハピ

SNAP ハピ

THE TRASH BEAST'S MAIN BODY IS—

I'M SO STUPID!!!

BA-

SHOOM

AND
STAY
DOWN!!!

WHAT??! IF WE HAVE TO KEEP FIGHTING THESE THINGS, WE'LL *NEVER* FIND THE MAIN BODY!!

ハッ

WHOOSH

THAT ONE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE THE MAIN BODY, EITHER.

I'M SURE WE WILL.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY MORE OF YOU!!

ハァ ハァ

HUFF HUFF

!!

ベシャ

SPLAT

GUYS!!

IT'S THE HOUSE !!!

I FOUND THE TRASH BEAST'S MAIN BODY!

THE HOUSE WAS ***CONTROLLING*** THE DUST!!

FOLLO, YOU'RE BLEED-ING...!!

BUT!!

WE'LL BE DONE CLEANING!!

IF WE DESTROY THE HOUSE!

WHOOSH

GH

...

THAT MEANS I CAN HELP!

GNN

IT'S NOT DUST. IT'S A SOLID OBJECT ...

SFF

NOW WE WON'T SPEND THE REST OF OUR LIVES PLAYING IN THE DUST.

GOT IT. THANKS FOR THE HELP.

!

RUDO!

ALL RIGHT, SHALL WE DO SOME HOUSEWORK?

STAND BACK, FOLLO!

I'LL BLOW THAT HOUSE DOWN!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS!

...HAS SOMETHING I DON'T.

RUDO...

THEY ONLY GET IN THE WAY.

PRIDE AND OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINIONS...

EXCUSE ME?